

THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. IX.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 24TH, 1882

NUMBER 12

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—22, Rua do Marquês d'Aurante.
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RAILWAYS.

DOM PEDRO II.—Through Express: Upward, leaves
Rio at 5 a. m.; arriving at Bora (junction) at 7:45 a. m., Entre
Rios (central line) 10:15 a. m., Barbacena 3:45 p. m., Porto
Novo (branch from Entre Rios) 12 m., Cachoeira (S. Paulo
branch) 1:45 a. m., São Paulo (per S. P. & Rio R.R.) 6 p. m.
Downward: leaves São Paulo 5 a. m., Barbacena 8:30 a. m.,
Porto Novo 12:15 p. m.; arriving at Bora 4:15 p. m. and Rio 7:15
p. m. Connects with Valença line at Desengane. Rio
das Flores line at Commercio. União Mineira line at Ser-
vício. Oeste de Minas (S. João d'El-Rey) line at Sítio;
Leopoldina line at Porto Novo; Rezelus e Arenas line at
Sumbly; and S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line at Cachoeira.
Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio 7:15 a. m.; arriving
at Bora 10:26 a. m., Rio Novo (central line) 7:07; Cachoeira
(S. Paulo branch) 5:28 p. m. Downward, leaves Cachoeira 6:48
a. m., Rio Novo 5:50 a. m.; arriving at Bora 1:42 and 1:57 p. m.,
Rio 5:45 p. m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santa
Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macacos branch at Belém.
Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 9:10 a. m., 3:12 and 4:10 p. m.;
arrive, from Belém 7:15 a. m., from Barra 8:45 a. m., from
Entre Rios (leaving 6:07 a. m.) at 3:28 p. m.
Suburban Trains.—Passenger trains leave at 5:00, 6:30,
7:40, 8:40 and 10:22 a. m., and 1:05, 2:15, 3:30, 4:25, 5:30, 7:30,
8:30 and 10:00 p. m. all stopping at Cascadura except the 10
p. m. train, which runs to Sapopemba. Returning, the trains
leave Sapopemba at 3:30 and Cascadura at 5:50, 6:10, 7:40,
8:45, 10, and 11:35 a. m., and 2:10, 3:20, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8:30 and
9:40 p. m.
CANTAGALLO R.—Leaves Niterói (Santa Anna)
7:30 a. m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 1:05 Cordeiro (1 hour
per trainway from Cantagallo) 4:25 and Macuco 5:45 p. m.
Return train leaves Macuco 6:30, Cordeiro 7:50 and Nova
Friburgo 11:10 a. m., arriving at Niterói 4:35 p. m. A ferry
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for 1879, 1880 and 1881

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79 RUA SETE DE SETEMBRO 79

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet,
the French packet of the 15th, and Royal
Mail packet of the 24th. of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs,
a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock
quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, and all
other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian
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All subscriptions should run with the calendar year.
Back numbers supplied at this office from April 1st, 1879.
Subscriptions and advertisements received at the
EDITORIAL ROOMS:—73, Rua de Setembro.
CITY TELEPHONE ADDRESS:—No. 112.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 24TH, 1882.

The following letter has been transmitted
by His Excellency the British Minister at
this capital, Edwin Corbett, Esq., to the
committee charged with drafting an address
of congratulation to Her Majesty Queen Vic-
toria, on her recent most fortunate escape
from assassination:

"Referring to my letter dated the 12th ult-
imo, I have the honour to inform you that
I have received a despatch from Earl Gran-
ville, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the
receipt of my telegram informing him
that an address to the Queen had been signed
by the British inhabitants of Rio de
Janeiro, for transmission by post, congratulat-
ing Her Majesty on her recent escape from
assassination.

Earl Granville has instructed me to inform
those by whom the address has been signed,
that he has not failed to signify to Her Majesty
the sentiments of loyalty to her person by
which they are animated, and that the address
when received will be at once forwarded
to its destination."

This is not *para inglês ver*. A decision
of the United States Supreme Court of the
6th ultimo declares a ruling of the treasury
department some years ago on the sugar
tariff as illegal, and orders the refunding
of the excess of duties collected. The
treasury at once gave orders for refund-
ing the excess, which will be done without
other delay than verifying the amounts
from the invoices on which the excess was
collected. This will of course benefit the
sugar interests of this country, and in an-
other sense it should serve as an example
for the Brazilian customs authorities which
should not pass unheeded. From the ar-
bitrary rulings of the customs authorities
here there is practically no recourse of the
kind afforded by the United States Supreme
Court, and there is precious little chance, if
any, of ever receiving back any sums ille-
gally collected. At the New York custom
house alone over one million dollars will be
refunded on account of this decision, one
firm, it is said, being entitled to not less than
four hundred thousand dollars. It was right
that the interpretation of the law was unjust
when first promulgated, and steps were at
once taken to secure its recall. If the cus-
toms department here will afford the same
means of settling disputed cases, and of
meeting all adverse decisions as promptly as
is illustrated in this sugar tariff case, there
will be removed one very just cause of com-
plaint.

In another column will be found a second
article on the state of the bar of Rio Grande,
for which we would bespeak the thoughtful

consideration of our readers. The conclu-
sions drawn are those of an engineer who
has given much study to the subject, and
who is thoroughly familiar with it in every
particular. Although his theory of the
causes of the bar, are radically different from
those heretofore advanced, they will recom-
mend themselves to men familiar with this
subject as being not only probable, but as
the best explanation yet given. It follows
therefore that the remedy proposed is em-
inently practicable, the more so as it pro-
poses nothing elaborate and costly. If it is
possible to build a breakwater for the protec-
tion of the entrance to the Lagoa dos
Patos at so reduced a cost as £300,000, the
government should lose no time in carrying
the project into execution. And then, the
opinion of this gentleman as to the desirability
of placing these plans before eminent
harbor engineers in Europe for advice and
revision, is so reasonable and proper that it
bears its recommendation on its face. No
eminent engineer can be brought out here
without great expense, but it is possible to
consult them at home at a very moderate out-
lay. The necessity of doing something to re-
move the Rio Grande bar, in the commercial
interests of that province, is so urgent, that
the government should lose no time in adopt-
ing some feasible plan for the improvements.
All further delay is highly critical.

We fear that our esteemed contemporary
of Rio Grande, the *Avulsa*, is just a little
mistaken in its defence of the Companhia
Hidraulica of that city. It would seem
that a large number of false shares have
been emitted by parties connected with
that company, and that a considerable loss
and trouble is likely to result. The *Avulsa*
meets the clamor of defrauded shareholders
with the assertion that the company can
not be held responsible because the shares
were issued by its ex-manager Agostinho
Rodrigues Junior, who alone is responsible.
If the ex-manager, or any other employee,
is guilty of the false emission, he should be
held responsible of course, but by the
company itself. The people, however, who
have been defrauded by these false shares,
can not hold this man to an account; they
must look to the company which employed
him for satisfaction. The claim that an
employer is not responsible for the acts of
his representative is certainly a mistaken
one, and were it carried out to its logical
conclusions would utterly destroy one of
the valuable securities upon which all sound
business is conducted. An employer,
whether a person or a company, is always
supposed to employ good men and to hold
them strictly responsible for their acts. If any-
thing is wrong we are accustomed to go to
the principal for satisfaction, instead of to his
subordinate. In such sense, it is manifestly
erroneous to claim that the Companhia
Hidraulica is not responsible for the fraud,
because it was committed by the
manager of another administration. It
should be borne in mind that a corporation
is continuous, and that its responsibilities
are not terminated with each change of
administration. The Rio Grande company
is just as much responsible for the acts of
this ex-manager, as though he were in charge
of their affairs to-day.

Our latest mail advices from the River
Plate represent affairs in the republic of
Uruguay to be in a very unsettled condition.
Although the Italian affair is settled, the
manner in which that result was brought
about, and the pending cases with the Brazilian
and Spanish governments, all tend to
keep up a feeling of anxiety, uncertainty and
dissatisfaction. It is felt that the govern-
ment needed to the Italian ultimatum
simply because it had no alternative, and

not through a sense of the inhuman treat-
ment imposed upon the two Italians, Volpi
and Patrone. To embarrass the Italian
minister in his negotiations the Uruguayan
government even resorted to the publication
of a false telegram from Rome, condemning
the action of the Italian chargé and naval
commander. These tricks, however, did not
have the effect sought, and when Baron Cova
presented his ultimatum—1, the trial and
punishment of the torturers; 2, pecuniary
compensation to the victims; 3, official visit
to the Italian representatives; 4, simultaneous
salute of the two flags; 5, official negation of
the bogus telegram—the Uruguayan govern-
ment felt obliged to yield. The government
readily promised to bring the guilty parties
to trial, but for some days permitted Minister
Vilaza to beat liberty because of his refusal to
surrender except at the orders of the Cham-
bers. The Italians were at first greatly en-
gaged by the inhuman tortures of the au-
thorities, but were kept under restraint by the
prompt and vigorous action of their repre-
sentatives. The feeling of injury still remains,
however, and should the Uruguayan govern-
ment fail to meet its engagements and to
give the promised satisfaction, there may yet
be serious trouble. The trickery and un-
scrupulous character of the Uruguayan gov-
ernment has alienated all sympathy and
support except among the politicians and
soldiers, and it will take only a very slight
provocation to occasion a general rising
against it.

According to an official statement the
slave population of the province of Rio
Grande do Sul on the 30th June last consist-
ed of 75,430 persons. Under the registration
of the emancipation law of 1871, which closed
on the 30th September, 1873, the slave
population of that province was 91,258,
from which it is seen that there has been a
total diminution of 20,778 in the 7½ years
since the close of registration, or the 9¾ years
since the passage of the law, since when no
increase in the slave population has been
legal except by transfer. As the inter-pro-
vincial slave traffic has been toward the central
coffee producing provinces, we may take it
for granted that Rio Grande do Sul has
received no appreciable addition from the
outside, hence the census of 1873 will serve
as well for 1871, when the registration be-
gan, as for its termination. In the 9¾ years
of emancipation, therefore, there has been a
diminution of 20,778 in the slave popula-
tion of Rio Grande do Sul, or an average
of 2,131 per annum. Taking the mean
population of that period as a basis this gives
an average annual diminution from all causes
of 2.6 per cent., against an average annual
diminution in the province of Rio de Jan-
eiro during the same period of less than
one per cent, or more exactly of .00887 per
cent. During the 7¾ years in which statis-
tics have been kept, the Rio Grande slave
population lost 6,083 persons by death,
which gives an annual average of very nearly
785, or a strangely low average of 9.7 per
thousand. The total number of emancipa-
tions was 7,864, of which 568 were through
the emancipation fund, and 7,296 by
voluntary gift. These give annual averages
of a little over 73 and 941 respectively, or
an average annual rate on the two classes
of emancipation together of 1¼ per cent.
As compared with the province of Rio de
Janeiro these results show some surprising
contrasts. In this province the average annual
death rate was 20.7 per thousand and the av-
erage annual emancipation rate a little less
than 5 per thousand. In Rio Grande these
rates are completely reversed, the death rate
being 9.7, and the emancipation rate 11.5
per thousand. The fact that Rio Grande is
practically a slave-exporting province, while
Rio de Janeiro is a slave-importing province,
will explain much of these dissimilar res-

ults, but it will not account for them all.
An average annual death rate of 9.7 per
thousand is a result which requires further
explanation.

A joint committee of the two houses of
parliament has framed and presented a
series of amendments to the electoral reform
law of last year, relating to the elections and
qualifications of aldermen and justices of the
peace. In many respects these amendments
contain very excellent provisions, but like
the electoral law itself they have the grave
fault of being too elaborate and complex.
They must inevitably serve to make politics
a profession above the comprehension of the
masses and requiring special study, instead
of a simple, easily comprehended system
of government by which the people can
make known their wishes through elections.
There was great need of a better system
when the electoral reform law was taken in
hand, but although it contains some valuable
changes it is doubtful whether they can meet
the popular need simply because of the
complicated provisions of the act. In the
amendments now proposed to the municipal
election clauses of the act, it is provided
that an elector may vote for two-thirds of
the total number of alderman in the munici-
pality, and that the required number of can-
didates having the highest number of votes
shall be declared elected. The regulations
governing the conduct of the election and
counting are of the same character of those
of the general act. It is provided that the elec-
tions for justices of the peace shall take place
on the day following those for aldermen,
thus occupying two days with two petty
elections which could easily be held together.
The projected amendments however contain
some most valuable restrictions in making
ineligible for these positions the members
of the general and provincial legislatures,
the superior police officials, and public em-
ployees, the candidate having the right of
choice after election in the last two cases.
For the position of alderman, the election
is expressly prohibited of the directors and
engineers of municipal works, contractors
and their securities, parties interested in
municipal revenues, and all parties interest-
ed in companies or enterprises subvented
by the municipality or recipients of interest
guarantees. These restrictions are so just
and desirable that no word of justification
is necessary. It is possible that a rogue may
find the means of avoiding these prohibitions
and obtaining access to the municipal
treasury, but with them the people will have
the means of inflicting punishment when-
ever their patience becomes exhausted.
It is to be hoped that the amendments will
pass through the two houses with these
clauses intact. Changes may be made to
simplify the regulations with propriety,
but in these restrictions no other change
should be made except it be to strengthen
them with penalties and disabilities.

We reproduce to-day another article from
the *Journal do Commercio* on the question of
delayed payments which will be read with
interest by all creditors of the government.
In private circles this question has long
been a subject of discussion and complaint,
but up to this time no attacks upon it have
been indulged in by the press such as are
now appearing in the *Journal*. The highly
conservative character of this journal, and
its well-known repugnance to saying any-
thing against the government, all serve to
lend increased influence to this series of edi-
torial articles in which certain gross adminis-
trative errors are vigorously denounced. And
furthermore, it is well-known that these
articles are written by a gentleman who is
thoroughly familiar with the peculiarities
of the system which he is criticising. It
may not be that these articles, nor all that

we can say, will lead to a change of policy on the part of the government; but it may be that they will make manufacturers and contractors better acquainted with this mistaken system, so that they may guard against certain losses through these delays. It is evident to every business man that no enterprise can be carried on, nor no sale effected, on such terms as are now imposed by the government. The one item of interest on the amount due from the government, whose payment is delayed beyond the stipulated time, will be sufficient to transpose a small profit into a serious loss, and this is just what creditors are interested in avoiding. It they be foreigners, they are almost certain to be deceived by the good credit which the Brazilian government enjoys abroad, and the sharp competition and confidence will therefore tend to the making of narrow margins on their tenders. The government then deliberately takes advantage of this confidence, and imposes severe losses, possibly ruin, upon the innocent creditor by onerous conditions, subtleties and delays. It is a policy which should cover the government with shame, and the Brazilian people with humiliation. The government regards its promise, its plighted faith, no more than so much wasted breath, and this is proved in a long series of cases, among the most prominent of which are the American steamship line, the Lamport & Holt coasting line, the Gabrielli water works and the City Improvements. Nor is this bad faith wholly confined to foreign enterprises, for Brazil is full of defrauded creditors whose claims vary from a few insignificant milreis to hundreds of contos. A few days after the publication of the *Journal's* article on "*exercícios fíndos*," an article appeared in its local columns stating that no payments had been made for the patrol and preservation of the new public garden in the Campo Sant'Anna and that the guards and laborers had been paid out of the private means of the director himself. This public garden was inaugurated on the 7th of September, 1880, and over a year and a half have now elapsed without an appropriation. The director, Dr. Glazou, rather than see the garden go to ruin or the laborers suffer through the non-payment of their wages, advanced the necessary amounts out of his own pocket up to the beginning of the present year, since when even his faith and patience have been exhausted. It is thus seen that the government has made it necessary for a private individual, charged with a public service, to pay the ordinary expenses incurred by him under official authorization. These expenses amount to some 60,000\$ or 70,000\$ per annum, a small amount for the government though a very large amount for any one private individual. And while this shameful default is taking place, the government advances large sums of money, without a legislative appropriation, for the support of an exhibit of private manufactures in Buenos Aires, for the extension of railways into the almost uninhabited valley of the São Francisco, for the dispatch of various useless commissions to Europe, and for many other similar purposes. It even pays for carpeting, flagging and adorning the Brazilian section at the Buenos Aires exhibition, while its own employees are going without their honestly-earned wages, and suffering privations of which none of us may know. And in the meantime the legislature is talking about rural credits and politics—facilities for borrowing more money and keeping themselves in power.

BAR OF RIO GRANDE.

For many years past there has been considerable conflict of opinion as to the cause of the bar at the entrance to the port of Rio Grande. The prevailing idea, how-

ever, has hitherto been that the silt and alluvial matter brought down by the water from the interior was deposited at the entrance of the estuary and formed the bar. This notion has been so elaborated that calculations have been put forward of the actual quantity in cubic meters of sand which have been thus deposited. But a careful examination of what actually takes place during the prevalence of north-east and east winds clearly shows that this supposed deposit from the upland waters does not now take place to any appreciable extent, and hence is insufficient to account for the present state of the bar.

Another theory for the formation of the bar is that it results from the meeting of the fresh water and the north-east swell. The concussion produced is presumed to cause the suspended earthy matter to fall to the bottom. A third theory is that the action of the south-west swell has been such as to drive the sand towards the entrance and thus cut off the scouring action of the outflowing current.

It is possible that a combination of these influences has considerably increased the tendency to form sand banks at, or near the present bar, but close observation shows that its present state is entirely due to the breaking of the ocean waves on the shallow bottom. During the prevalence of the east and north-east winds the sand banks are surrounded by a heavy surf. Every broken wave tears up sand from the bottom. This sand is carried forward by the water and is eventually deposited by the total dispersion of the wave. The sand thus deposited forms in course of time a shoal on which in turn more waves break, and it assumes under their action a ridge with deeper water on either side. Now this action, under which the bar was in a state of continuous though possibly very slow growth, would not be prevented by any increase of velocity or scouring action of the outflowing current. It is true that in favorable seasons and strong gales from the west and north-west, some counter action would be set up and the outflowing current would remove a part of the recent deposit, but the first gale from the east and north-east would re-establish the conditions and the ridge would be reformed higher and broader than before. That this is the case at the bar of Rio Grande is demonstrated beyond question by the experience of the last ten months.

The only remedy for this action of the ocean waves is by dividing this belt of surf and compelling it to break at a distance from the entrance to the navigable channel, or, in other words, to construct some artificial obstruction so as to prevent the waves of translation from acting upon the bar, when the sand now forming it is removed either by dredging or any other mechanical agency. But it must be borne in mind that no amount of dredging applied in the present state of the bar can be of the slightest avail, because the conditions necessary to secure success do not exist. It must also be distinctly understood that a breakwater will not remove the present bar, but it will prevent the formation of another when the present one is removed, and it will enable the outflowing current to keep the navigable channel open by facilitating the scour into deep water.

It is believed that the great error which has hitherto been committed in dealing with the harbor of Rio Grande has been the constant interference with the bed of the estuary inside the bar, while no attention was paid to the formation of the bar itself. Dredging has been carried on at intervals inside the entrance and this has formed so many holes or hollows by which the declivity of the channel has been altered and the uniform scouring action of the outflowing currents interfered with if not partially destroyed, for it is obvious that all

scouring action must be due to the lower stratum of water and not to the surface currents. Soundings recently taken show that the bed of the present channel is higher at its entrance from the sea than at the anchorage opposite São José do Norte, clearly proving the cause of the retardation of the scour. All observations tend to confirm the opinion that any permanent and effective improvement to the harbor must commence outside the entrance.

The grand obstacle to these improvements, and more especially the construction of breakwaters, is the probable expense. The estimate presented by Sir John Hawkshaw in 1875 put the cost of efficient, permanent breakwaters for the improvements at Rio Grande at £2,000,000 sterling. If such an outlay were absolutely necessary, then it is questionable if such works are possible; but on the other hand it may be asked if it is not practicable to construct an efficient breakwater at a much less cost. The experience of other similar works shows that breakwaters have been erected in very exposed situations which have proved effective, the costs of which were scarcely a sixth of that stated by Sir John Hawkshaw. At Rio Grande the absence of all suitable material in the shape of stone, shingle, etc., precludes the idea of having recourse to the modern system of concrete blocks or large masses of stone; but the province to the north of Porto Alegre would furnish an abundant supply of excellent timber as well as any quantity of rubble stone. With these a breakwater could be constructed which would ensure immediate means for improving the entrance to the harbor.

The use of timber may be objected to as not being sufficiently durable, but if an effective breakwater could be constructed to last say 50 years it is to be expected that long before that time the immense advantages which would accrue to the port would furnish ample resources to maintain such a structure or on the same site gradually to construct one of more durable material. The urgency of the case is such that any means should be resorted to that would ensure a speedy removal of the present obstructions; and objections on the score of durability should not weigh against the certain ruin of the trade of Rio Grande, if not of the whole of the south of the province, by delay.

It is confidently believed that with an expenditure of £300,000 the necessary works could be carried out, including the eastern breakwater and the removal of the present bar by a special system of dredging, and that a permanent channel could be opened for vessels drawing 12'6" at all seasons of the year.

Designs have been prepared for a breakwater combining some novel features in the adaptation of piled structures to sandy bottoms. But before presenting these plans to the authorities, the author of them suggests that they should be submitted to the best authorities on harbor engineering for revision so as to avoid as far as possible the expenditure of money upon mere empirical schemes.

From the *Journal do Commercio*, April 16.

EXERCÍCIOS FÍNDOS.

For a long time there was no limit to the faculty conceded to the government to satisfy the credits of *exercícios fíndos* (accounts not settled during the fiscal year for which money had been voted to meet them). The estimates contained an appropriation for these expenses without establishing the amount that might be expended. Later on it was found convenient to establish a fixed limit to the credit for the payment of such debts and the practice was adopted of appropriating each year the sum of 800,000\$ for this purpose, the govern-

ment however having the power to increase the legal amount by means of a supplementary credit whenever the appropriation was found to be too small for the payment of pensions and salaries established by law.

In both periods to which we refer frequent complaints were heard against the dilatoriness of such payments. The special process by which these accounts are settled involves slow formalities which the zeal of the departments, generally occupied with more important matters, is not sufficient to abbreviate. It even became a maxim among practical men who value their time, to not trouble themselves about small sums on account of the difficulty of collecting them.

All this, however, was found to be an insufficient scourge for the creditors. It was found that the intricate administration still left too large a margin to individual right, and the law No. 3,018 of Nov. 5th, 1880, with an evident disregard of the principles and rules that should be respected, established that payments to creditors of *exercícios fíndos* should only be made within the limits of the appropriations for the fiscal year to which the expense belongs.

When this disposition was under discussion we combated it vigorously because we considered that, inefficient to prevent any abuse and showing a lack of confidence unworthy of any government, it would only result in vexing, oppressing, and, let us use the proper word, in the spoliation of the rights of a multitude of creditors none of whom ask a favor of the government but only the indemnification or exchange of services stipulated. Our protest, however, was ineffectual and the government accepting, and even applauding the proposed measure, considered that our financial system was improved by it.

We shall return at the proper time to this subject to examine its different phases and shall then have occasion to do justice to the tendency which is leading the Brazilian parliament to become an administrative rather than a legislative and political assembly, interfering or attempting to interfere at every step, and to the prejudice of the highest interests, in the details of administration which from their very nature should only in a general way be subject to the examination of parliament. To-day we limit ourselves to showing the effects of the said disposition and call for the remedy that the circumstances require.

The liquidation of accounts shows that numerous debts are yet to be paid because the corresponding appropriations have left no balance, while in the present estimates there is not only an item of 800,000\$ for *exercícios fíndos* but also an authorization to the government to, in certain cases, increase this credit. Three ministers, those of empire, agriculture, and finance, have submitted to the legislative power the lists of their martyrs, that is to say of their creditors, and a glance at these lists is exceedingly curious.

There are unpaid debts that date from ten years ago! The average age is five years! And of what nature and value are these debts? The state owes from two milreis to hundreds of contos, by titles recognized, liquidated, free from all contestation, and for whose payment there would be sufficient credit in the estimates if the law did not establish that a new credit should be asked whenever the special item for the expense leaves no balance.

By such a system the government owes banking establishments, companies, contractors of great and small services, furnishers, public employees, workmen, in fact, all classes. And all of these suffer, waiting the meeting of parliament, the tardy presentation of bills, and finally the slow elaboration of the law, because they happened to render services to the government in the faith that

sufficient credit be had en conceded to it to meet the expenses authorized.

There is one however that suffers not less with this than the interested parties. It is the government; it is the administration which, besides exciting a just clamor of legitimate interests against its want of punctuality, is many times obliged to make worse bargains in the discharge of its obligations than any private individual in good standing would do. It is practices of this kind that aggravate extraordinarily among us the public antipathy which everywhere surrounds the fiscal administration. It is these practices that little by little, here annoying the contractor who confided in the word of the government, there irritating the needy man who earns his modest salary, imbue the public mind with false concepts relative to the administrative mechanism, rendering it odious and suspected.

It is not even decent to thus show forth that our laws and financial institutions are so organized that while they have not yet succeeded in liquidating a fiscal term without a considerable excess of expense realized over expense voted, it impedes the state from paying even insignificant sums for the wages of workmen. This is not a good showing. Such a thing is never seen in the documents presented to the English parliament. The practical common sense of the English would not tolerate that their government should on any occasion be unable to pay a few pennies to a workman. Yet the English budget has not been like ours a mere vague estimate and always inferior to the actual expense.

The law however wishes it so, and now there is nothing to do but fulfill it.

Three lists of such debts have been submitted to the Chamber. The other ministers can not have been more fortunate; why do they delay their bills? What on its side is the Chamber doing that it has not yet deigned to consider such proposals?

We see no subject more urgent, nor as urgent as that of the state paying what it acknowledges that it owes. There is not one morality for the state and another for private individuals. If it is indispensable that the government should enjoy certain privileges that a private individual has no right to invoke, these can not be exaggerated to the point of reducing its creditors to the part of importunate pretendants.

This observation applies to all kinds of debts, but more especially to those of *exercício findos* already too long delayed to be still further deferred.

It is the duty of parliament to vote immediately the money for such payments. It is iniquitous to delay them. If there have been abuses in exceeding the appropriations, let the liquidation of these arbitrary acts wait. As to the liquidation of the debts, that is perfect and finished.

THE NEW BOTANICAL GARDEN RAIL ROAD.

It is inevitable, without doubt, that all successful and profitable enterprises must meet with a certain amount of interested opposition and criticism. The very fact that success has been achieved is gravamen enough to some men for bitter hostility and detraction, and this is eminently the case with the Botanical Garden Rail Road of this city. The history of this enterprise, through the discussions which have now been going on for years, has become a household word, and it is no longer necessary to repeat it. It will suffice to say that this is the pioneer tramway enterprise of Brazil, and was built by foreigners with foreign capital at a time when Brazilians had no confidence in the enterprise and refused to subscribe the capital required. As soon, however, as the success of the enterprise was demonstrated, the

attacks upon it were begun, and they have continued ever since with but slight intermissions. Nevertheless the company went on extending its lines and perfecting its service until it is now one of the best tramways in the world. Being the first of this country, and organized before the present system of railway concessions was adopted, the contract was not specific in all points, and upon these technical points has been based much of the opposition since known. The contract also did not contain the clause since inserted in all concessions providing for the reversion of the property to the state at the termination of the privilege.

As the term of privilege has been gradually drawing to a close, and under the administration of a late minister whose disregard of contracts and private rights has thrown the government into so many complications, it became evident that the tenure of this enterprise was extremely doubtful, principally through the opposition of influential parties in this city, and through the fact that it was a foreign enterprise. Concessions were granted in violation of its privilege, which were defeated only after great effort and expense and through mere technicalities. The privilege had only some seven years yet to run, and although the company would still hold its property, the animosity of the government made the future very doubtful. Under an exceptionally efficient administration, the line had become very profitable. It paid large dividends, and it shares rarely ever appeared on the market.

In this state of affairs, the American shareholders decided to sell, and their stock was readily taken by several of the most important capitalists in Brazil at nearly four times its original value. The line was bought by gentlemen who were thoroughly acquainted with its history, and with its present and prospective standing with the government. It was even bought when the government was asking for proposals to build a rival line. It must be considered therefore that these gentlemen were fully advised of all the facts in the case, and knew their chances as well as any outside parties could do.

Without going into figures, as we propose in this article to deal only with the general principles, the transfer was finally effected at about four times the original nominal capital, and the Botanical Garden line became a home enterprise. It is evident that the government then became better disposed toward it, as is shown by the onerous conditions tacked on the Copacabana call at the last. The Bank of Brazil advanced money for the purchase upon the security of the shares themselves and upon the personal security of such capitalists as Visconde de Figueiredo, Conde de Mattosinhos, William P. Kemp (of Fannie Bros.), Kern, Hays & Co., Alexandre de Castro, and others well known in this city. This act of the Bank has been most severely criticised since, both by the *Anglo-Brazilian Times*, whose hatred of the tramway company and its present president, R. C. Shannon, Esq., dates back many years, and by Senator Teixeira Junior in the Senate, who has long been known as an inveterate enemy of the Bank. These parties, under the impulse of personal enmities, have undertaken to discredit the transaction on the ground that the Bank advanced more money on the shares than the law permits. They overlook the personal security afforded by the gentlemen themselves, every one of whom is responsible for every shilling personally invested. Then too the subsequent action of the new shareholders—these reputable gentlemen whom we have just named—in the transformation of the stock for which

they paid so high a price, into a large number of shares at the original value, is also made a matter for censure. The original 10,000 shares for which they paid nearly four times the par value—simply because the line was worth that as a financial investment—were transformed into a new capital stock of 50,000 shares, and this transformation was not only authorized by the privilege of the company, but also by the government itself. Moreover its legality was affirmed by many of the most prominent lawyers of the city. To assert that the new company, which seems to have the confidence of the entire community outside of the old Copacabana enterprise, the *Anglo-Brazilian Times*, and Senator Teixeira Junior, is guilty of anything illegal or fraudulent in this matter, is to take a position which none but a clean-handed, disinterested man can do.

The assertions of Senator Teixeira Junior in the Senate that the sending of £600,000 out of the country by the Bank of Brazil for the purchase of this stock caused a fall in exchange, and is a large sum of money to send out of the country, is a piece of pure demagogism. The exchange transaction took place in October of last year, and it produced so little effect at the time that it was not even suspected. The fall in exchange took place in December. And as to sending the cash out of the country, what has the Senator or parliament to do with that? Were they to pay in coffee, as Affonso Celso would have done? Or would the Senator not pay at all?

The simple fact is that certain prominent and responsible Brazilian capitalists wished to purchase a very profitable enterprise, and they did it! They engaged to pay cash, and they did that too! Then they undertook to make the stock represent the amount paid, which has also been done. These transactions are clear enough even for the water-carriers of the city who have bought stock. And then, as to the termination of the privilege in seven years, of which our contemporary is making so much capital, what will be the result? The property will remain in the hands of the company as before. The government will not confiscate, as every one well knows. Even though no new privilege is granted, the government will not order the removal of the tracks nor forbid the continuation of the service. Such a thing has never been known. And no new company can undertake to build a competing line for many years to come without favors from the government. That's the case in a nut shell.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The March receipts of the Macacitanga-house amounted to 113,641\$300.

—The March receipts of the Porto Alegre custom house, including deposits, amounted to 213,817\$749.

—The Rio Grande provincial assembly still has so small an attendance that when one or two deputies desire to go out fishing the session is closed for lack of quorum.

—The solemn opening of the Rio Grande provincial assembly did not take place until the 29th ult. The solemnity of the occasion was largely due to the feeling that they might never be able to get together again.

—The March receipts of the three custom houses and the Pelotas *meza de rendas* of the province of Rio Grande do Sul were as follows:

Rio Grande.....	214,979\$542
Porto Alegre.....	210,355 539
Uruguayana.....	51,220 810
Pelotas, <i>meza de rendas</i>	55,251 334
Total.....	531,874 125
Imports.....	394,227\$132
Despacho marítimo.....	2,038 600
Exports.....	73,394 009
Interior taxes.....	54,085 269
Extraordinary.....	8,129 055
Total.....	531,874 125

Receipts for March, 1881..... 494,286 174

—On the 19th inst. 23 slaves were freed at Magé, province of Rio de Janeiro, at a cost to the emancipation fund of 18,999\$8.

—Rio Grande exported 33,069 salted hides, 49,923 dry hides, and 2,816.6 tons of jerked beef during the month of March.

—The *Jornal de Porto Alegre* says that the sub-treasury of that city has discovered a default of 1,004\$ in a sum of money received there on the 28th ult. from Rio de Janeiro.

—Provincial law No. 38, of the recent provincial assembly of São Paulo, grants concessions for 15 new lotteries. And this is the result of introducing an anti-lottery project at the opening of the session.

—Two slaves, armed with bill-hooks, presented themselves to the police authorities at Castagallo on the 13th inst., and confessed the assassination of their overseer on the plantation of Lieut. Col. Francisco Vieira de Carvalho.

—An association has been formed in Buenos Aires for a mineral exploration of the province of Matto Grosso. The Vicente and Pilar valleys, and the Lararé and Tjura rivers will be first explored. Brazilian engineers will be in charge of the exploration.

—We see by our São Paulo exchanges that the late acting president of that province Dr. Manoel Maremides, withdrew to his private residence at Pitumangahan on the 13th inst. The *Phorid da Manhã* says that the illustrious traveler was "frentalmente viciado" by his friends and by the people at Jacarehy, Taubaté and Pitumangahan.

—On the 20th June last the province of Rio Grande do Sul contained 74,420 slaves, of which 37,369 were males and 37,061 were females. The province possessed 91,208 slaves on the 30th Sept. 1872, from which it will be seen that there has been a decrease of 20,778 in the 7 years and 9 months since the emancipation law entered into execution.

—The official values of the exports from Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, during the month of March, amounted to a total of 526,835\$085. The exports included 27.5 tons of lard, 383.8 tons of coal, 27.7 tons of maté, 37.8 tons of tallow, 164.5 tons of jerked beef, 16,440 hides, 28,450 bags of beans, and 65 600 lbs. These exports are almost wholly to domestic ports.

—The customary snipe of the little sand-lacked city of Rio Grande was rudely broken during the first days of the month by the discovery of a little rascaldness in the affairs of the Companhia Hydraulica. It was accidentally learned that a large number of false shares had been placed on the market, and there was naturally a considerable excitement among the shareholders. An investigation was at once begun, the results of which are not known to us, as our Rio Grande exchanges suddenly became silent on the subject.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The March receipts of the Carangola railway were 34,966\$260. The expenditures are not published.

The corps of engineers for the survey of the "garrahy a Itaquy" railway, Rio Grande do Sul, arrived at Uruguaiana early this month.

—By a decree of the 15th inst, the government concedes a privilege of 35 years to Augustus Engenio de Lemos for a tramway from Pedregal to the village of Penha, within the municipality of Rio de Janeiro.

—The first two locomotives for the São Carlos do Pinhal railway, of São Paulo, arrived at Santos on the 15th inst., per the *Nova* from New York. Twelve ballast cars were also received by the same steamer.

—The complaint comes from Amparo, São Paulo, that the railway station there has not storage room enough for the coffee received, and that it is packed into the passenger waiting rooms. The production is increasing very rapidly in that locality.

—The *Correio Paulistano* of the 20th inst. states that a barricade was built on the Paulista line some days ago near the Santa Barbara station, for the purpose of wrecking trains. A large quantity of stones and iron rails were found on the track. A reward of 500\$ is offered for the discovery of the guilty parties.

—Construction work on the S. Fidelis railway, province of Rio de Janeiro, was begun on the 5th inst. under the concession granted to Edmund Meinicke and others by a provincial contract dated 8th June, 1876. The new road will connect the S. Antonio de Padua with the Macabé and Campos lines, the Rio Parahyba being bridged at S. Fidelis.

—The managers of the Great Southern railway of Buenos Aires have entered into an agreement with Messrs. Wm. & Co. for bringing out all the material for the probngation of the said railway in Bahia Blanca. The contract is four years.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, April 11.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—It is said that the province of Cordoba refuses to consent to the decision of the supreme court on the question of provincial limits.

—The receipts of the Buenos Aires custom house in March were \$1,554,078.85, of which 1,175,438.78 were for imports and 362,120.70 for exports.

—In another week the whole machinery section of the exhibition will be open. Messrs. Schwartz Co.'s large engine being about ready to run.

—Four leagues of land between Puan and Fuerte Argentino, purchased in 1879 at \$10,000 mpc. per league were bought last year by Sr. Mendez who has resold them at the rate of \$110,000 per league.

—A duel took place at Montevideo April 9 between Juan Nuñez and Plácido Ferreira, typographers of *La Nación* and *Patris Uruguay*. They fought with knives, and Nuñez received 15 wounds, some being serious. Ferreira was wounded slightly.

—In the new capital of the province, it is proposed that a monopoly should be given for bricks, and all business will be done officially, or in the family of favoured friends. The *Herald* would make a good goal to grind out cheerful music to accompany such a new Italy.

—The rules for the new municipal lottery have been submitted to the national government. Four lotteries, being 2 of \$125,000 each, 1 of \$150,000 and 1 of \$100,000 will be drawn per month and there will be 2 extra yearly drawings of \$1,200,000 each, to be drawn respectively on the 25th of May and 8th of December.

—Mr. M. Forrester, in the name of many holders of treasury bonds, has appealed to the minister of finance, asking for the modification of the decree which ordered the amortization of the said securities by lot, and at par. The majority of the holders of these bonds have paid a heavy premium on them, hence they are naturally unwilling to dispose of them at par. It may well be hoped that the consideration of these and other kindred facts, may induce the government to reconsider its resolution.

—In many respects the condition of the country never was better. Trade is good; money is plentiful; the provincial paper currency, which, in spite of the mint and the comparatively heavy bank going on there, is likely to be the favorite circulating medium for a long time to come, is at par, i.e., \$25 currency to \$1 gold, at which rate it is likely to remain all the winter. The camps are in good condition, sheep increasing to such an extent that thousands have to be sold off by those who are unwilling to assume the responsibility of more land, and the prices of produce are very remunerative to farmers and agriculturists.

—The Continental Exhibition continues to attract attention and to bring visitors from every quarter. Though not quite really even yet, there is amply sufficient of it open to interest visitors, and the display of goods of every conceivable kind is very creditable indeed. One subject brought prominently to the fore on the occasion of the exhibition is that of local manufactures. In these we have, besides dressed hides, sugar, wines, cigars, etc., perfumery, of every description, specifics for curing diseases in cattle and sheep, boots, shoes, hats, harness, clothes of all kinds, and many other articles which have already developed into very large trades.

—Not a little excitement was caused last week by the reported revolution in the province of Corrientes. This always has been one of the most turbulent quarters in the republic, and it appears that Dr. Derqui, getting around him a few malcontents, and placing too great a reliance on the discontented spirit manifested in some parts of the country, succeeded in forcing Governor Galliano to resign and in proclaiming a revolution. In this illegal proceeding he was unhappily backed by the legislature of the province, but the large majority of the people, having doubtless learned through the brief respite from revolutions which they have enjoyed of late, what the blessings of peace really are, resolutely set their faces against the movement, and declared themselves determined to back the constitutional government and to second the prompt resolution of the national authorities to restore order on a basis of legality.

—The torturing of the two Italians, Volpi and Patrone, by the police authorities of Montevideo, which was the just occasion of so much excitement when we wrote our last review, has been settled by the government's promising to punish all the parties concerned in the outrage; to apologize in due form to the Italian government, and to pay an indemnity of five thousand patacons, about £1,000 sterling to each of the victims. As for the punishment of the guilty parties, it is very difficult to say how this will be effected, unless President Santos and his government turn to and do penance. At all events, however, it will be a warning to the persons in power, in the Banda Oriental, and will serve to show Santos that torturing is too expensive a task for him to indulge in except, perhaps, on very special occasions.

—The Montevideo custom house receipts during the month of March were \$1,508,832.21.

—Some very successful experiments in sugar planting have been made in the Chaco. This will be a valuable addition to the rich trade in woods from the same place. Our trade in native wines is increasing notably. Some of these are very good whilst others are quite the reverse, and the ultimate success of the trade depends very greatly on the excellence of the quality being maintained at any cost.

From the New York Commercial Bulletin, March 8. OPENING OF THE NEW YORK COFFEE EXCHANGE.

The Coffee Exchange which was recently organized in this city, and which is the first and only organization of its kind in the trade on either side of the Atlantic, was formally opened yesterday at No. 135 Pearl street. There was a very large attendance of the members, of whom there are 112 on the roll. Among those present were Mr. B. G. Arnold, the president of the Exchange; Mr. John S. Wright, vice-president; Dr. Salvador de Mendonça, the Brazilian consul at this port; Mr. G. A. Recknagel, Mr. John F. Scott, and Messrs. Frank B. Johnson, C. G. Ramsay, Solomon A. Cohen, Henry Dyer, E. F. Briggs, Lionel Holmihal, J. H. Small, W. McGregor, Siegfried Gruner, W. L. Pine, John B. O'Donoghue, James Scott, W. J. Peck, F. B. Arnold, Frank Williams, D. K. Baker, E. White Adams, Herman Simmons, Aaron De Cordova, T. C. Weygandt, A. G. Hildreth, Alfred Merriam, Bowie Dash, Robert I. Arnold, Leland Child, T. B. Armitage, Clarence Creighton, F. H. Leggett, William Thompson, Abraham Wakeman, C. H. Arnold, J. C. Lloyd, H. B. Livingston, M. G. Hanna, Wm. Surley, J. W. O'Shaughnessy, H. F. McCleery, J. W. Phyle, Leander Waterimer, Louis Seeligberg, S. A. Herford, Gerhard Jansen, E. A. Phelps, Jr., A. E. Whyland, Walter Ashlin, H. C. Madsen, H. H. Edwards, E. H. Peck, W. H. Kirkland, J. A. O'Brien, C. R. Blakeman, R. D. Perry, E. H. White, C. R. Leary, G. McC. Beecher, E. B. Bartlett, J. F. Pinsky, G. O. Gordon, M. D. Mackey, M. M. Green, J. R. McNulty, E. C. Kanodel, Thos. Minford, Jr., J. E. Fay, J. W. Phoenix, D. P. Montagne, H. D. Tyler, S. R. Gee, Alex. Kirkland, W. S. Porter, D. A. De Lima, H. C. De Rivera, Wm. Angelo, A. Sanger, Jr., A. D. Strauss, John Shortridge, C. D. Lathrop, R. McD. Kirkland, S. W. Battershall, J. E. Blair, G. P. Forman, J. B. Kearney, W. R. Byrnes, Ramsey Cooks, C. H. Ingalls, and F. C. Kirkhof.

The Exchange leaves the entire lower floor of the building at the junction of Pearl and Beaver streets, but owing to the inability to obtain the two front apartments till the first of May, business has begun in the back office, No. 135 Pearl street. This, however, is tastefully fitted up. Several large blackboards were on the wall, and on one of these were written the two following special dispatches from Rio de Janeiro, dated March 6th: "Shipped to New York, 12,000 bags; purchases to New York, 2,000 bags; stock, 50,000 bags; daily average receipts, 1,400 bags; exchange, 20 1/2. No available stock; market 'firm.' Market advanced 1/8 to 3/8 since 27th February, and closed firm."

The room was nearly filled when, at eleven o'clock, President B. G. Arnold mounted the platform and called the members to order. Mr. Arnold spoke as follows:

"The idea of a Coffee Exchange in New York has hardly been considered seriously until within a few months, when the trade began to earnestly discuss the subject, with the result of concentrating the efforts of those who had faith in the advantages which an Exchange will bring to the trade. All departures from customary methods of business naturally arouse some opposition. The chief objection to a Coffee Exchange in the minds of many is the fear of the greater scope and encouragement it affords to speculation. I do not propose to defend speculation, but I think it is a much abused term in its general application, and that it would be unwise to forego the advantages of an Exchange through fear of this spectre of evil to some people."

"The great advantages of an Exchange are obviously, in bringing to a focus the information, capital and mind engaged in any special article of commerce. The question with us is, whether the coffee trade is capable of such development as will sustain an Exchange? I believe the experiment is worth trying, and if we do not at the outset meet with all the success we hope for, we must remember that the other exchanges had early struggles for existence, finally overcoming all obstacles and growing into the mammoth proportions of the present day, and which it is well known are indispensable to the transaction of the legitimate business, so called, in contradistinction to purely speculative operations. In regard to rules for the conduct of business, the committee having that matter in charge have been most courteously assisted by members of the Cotton and Produce Exchanges in framing them. They

may and probably will require early revision, as the practical working may show to be necessary. Meantime, I trust the members will exercise forbearance, and make due allowances for defects. Our quarters require but a word. They are central, and will be made convenient for the purposes, and I think must prove very satisfactory. Arrangements are in progress for telegraphic intelligence from Brazil and Europe, also from home markets. Meantime, we are promised the information received daily by our leading importers."

"And now, gentlemen, I declare the Exchange open, and commend the enterprise to your hands." Mr. F. N. Sanders, the manager of the Exchange, was then introduced. Before proceeding with the first call, he said that for the present transactions on call would be limited to Rio, "strict good ordinary." In a short time other grades would be called as well. Mr. Sanders then proceeded to call the twelve calendar months and ask for bids and offers for "futures." As it was the first time in the history of the trade that coffee was offered on call, there was naturally a little awkwardness in the operations, and members were slow in making bids. This, however, will soon wear off, and it is believed that trading will be active. On the first round, 7 1/2c was bid and 8c asked for March, and 7 1/2c bid and 8 1/4c asked for April. On the second round, 8c was bid for March, and 8 1/2c bid and 8 3/4c asked for April.

The second call took place at 1 p. m., when there was a perceptible improvement in the bidding. The first sale was also effected at this call. William Scott & Son sold 250 bags Rio to Small & Co. at 8 1/2c per pound, May delivery. The sale was received with loud applause and Mr. Scott was congratulated on the honor of effecting the first sale. Superintendent Powers, of the Cotton Exchange, was present during this call, and he recalled reminiscences of the early days of that Exchange, and alluded to the experience it took before the members became accustomed to the new order of things. Altogether, the first day of the Coffee Exchange was very promising for its growth and importance.

LOCAL NOTES

—The budget bill has been finally taken up in parliament, but has not yet reached the interesting stage.

—A cable dispatch of the 20th instant announces the death of Charles Darwin, the eminent naturalist and author.

—The government has granted two central usine concessions, with a 6 per cent guarantee, to Possidonio Carvalho Moreira, province of Alagoas.

—An imperial decree of the 15th inst. grants permission to The Home and Colonial Marine Insurance Company Limited to transact business in the empire of Brazil.

—We see by our Platine exchanges that plain Sr. Santos of the Brazilian commission has blossomed out into a "commendador." Our feelings are too few for words!

—A substitute for Barque de Macedo's patent law has been introduced into the Senate, and has passed to second reading. It is a great improvement upon the original measure.

—The "Centro da Lavoura e Commercio" of this city has very wisely continued its discussions upon industrial topics. The lack of system, however, promises to defeat its best efforts.

—The Dom Pedro II opera house of this city is now undergoing extensive repairs and alterations, preparatory to the next season of opera. We trust that it will not be forgotten that the doors should open outdoors.

—Among the departures of the 20th inst. for Pernambuco was the well-known engineer Carlos Alberto Morsing, who goes to the "Recife ao S. Francisco" railway promulgation as the representative of the contractor.

—The Caixa da Amortização is about to issue new 25 treasury notes, authorized by a treasury order of December 20th, 1881. The new notes are of the "62 estampa," and are printed upon linen paper in blue and black.

—The government has granted a concession for six central usines in the province of Pernambuco to Domingos Montinho, with a guarantee of 6 per cent. This would seem to be a revival of the Anfriso Fialho concession, for which a company has been organized in London.

—Maximiano Villarinho de Oliveira was brought to trial on the 21st inst. for stealing a tin of butter on the 4th of November last. He had been caught in the act. He even hurt the man who owned the butter, when he tried to recover his property. The accused, when interrogated in court, said that he could give no explanations, but that his lawyer would explain. The result was an acquittal by eleven votes. The explanation seemed to have been satisfactory.

—We print one day earlier than usual this time, owing to publication day falling on Sunday.

—The librarian of the faculty of medicine of this city proposes to hold an exhibition of medical works next January.

—The Uruguayan government has appointed Don José Vazquez Sagastume as minister plenipotentiary to Brazil.

—Ex-Minister Vilaza, the one chiefly responsible for the torture of Volpi and Patrone at Montevideo and who was finally arrested in compliance with the demands of the Italian government, has been released on bail.

—We are indebted to Senator Joaquim Floriano de Godoy for a pamphlet entitled *Tributação Confederação do Governo Liberal*, embodying a series of valuable articles on railway administration published some time since in the *Cruzeiro*.

—The republic of Uruguay contains an Italian population of 36,300, out of an estimated total population of 460,000. The city of Montevideo, at the last census, contained a total population of 111,500, of which 66,500 were Uruguayans, and 13,600 were Italians.

—The "American University of Philadelphia" has conferred the degree of doctor of sciences on Sr. Manoel Candido Rodrigues Silva, professor of humanities. As there is no such university in existence, we would advise the professor to wear his honors with discretion.

—The Brazilian section at the continental exhibition, says the *Standard*, "is carpeted, flagged, and beautifully adorned." And at the same time a private individual has been paying the wages of laborers employed in one of the principal public gardens of this city because the government has no money to meet the expense!

—Incredible! When the hand struck up the Brazilian national anthem at the opening of the Brazilian section at the Buenos Aires exhibition, the editor of *The Standard* was reminded of the favorite English air, "Take Me while I'm in the Humour." It is true that the anthem might mean something of that kind, but why should our colleague be so sarcastic about it?

—The Buenos Aires *Herald* says that "the President [Roca] might to court martial and shoot about three-fourths of the artists who have painted him in the character of a pirate." But it won't do; our colleague is too bloodthirsty, by far! If every portrait painter up here were treated in that way, we would soon be without even a semblance of the art divine. An artist must be allowed just a little poetic license in his work, even if it does produce a pirate.

—And this is fame! The *Standard*, in its account of the opening of the Brazilian section at Buenos Aires, refers repeatedly to a Mr. Urien, who was conspicuous for his frequent speeches and a beautiful toast to some Brazilian ladies whom he characterized as "the flowers in the garden of life." From a casual allusion to this eloquent gentleman as the president of the medical association of this city, we divine that it is no other than our old friend Dr. Pereira Rego. How he got the other name we do not know; perhaps it is a new membership.

—The one great material attraction—we say material because we would exclude the art exhibit—at the opening of the Brazilian section at the Buenos Aires exhibition was the free coffee. With consummate tact our commissioners promised a little bag of coffee and a drink of the beverage to all comers, and the rush was something delightful to see. The editor of the *Standard* twice complains that just as he reached the place, where he hoped to secure the donation, someone called him back. We trust that the commissioners have since made good our colleague's loss.

—The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Welch sugar case in favor of the importers was the chief subject of conversation in the sugar trade yesterday [March 7], and there were many congratulations over the victory the merchants had gained after their long and bitter struggle with the treasury department. The tariff lays a duty of 2 1/2 cents per pound on all centrifugal sugar between Nos. 7 and 10, Dutch standard; while the order of the Secretary, of September, 1879, increased the duty to 2 1/2-100 cents. Slight as the difference is, the excess of duties collected under the order amounts to over \$2,000,000, of which \$500,000 was paid by one firm. This amount must be refunded by the government. There is some fear expressed that the treasury department will ask Congress to pass a law legalizing the Secretary's decision.

Congressman Canlier's bill, introduced Monday, [March 6], imposing a uniform ad valorem duty of 25 per cent, on imported sugar, is very generally favored by the importers as far preferable to the present heavy and complicated sugar tariff. There are but little hopes, however, that the bill, as it now stands, will be passed.—*A. Y. Commercial Bulletin*, March 8.

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